



Rodgers Is Baptizing on an Average Thirty Converts to the New Belief Daily.

(Drawn by a Journal staff artist from sketches made from life.)

Waiting the World's End.

Southern Negroes Expect to Hear Gabriel's Trumpet March 5.

Confidently Believe They Will Soar Away from the Earth on That Date.

Many of Them Disposing of Their Belongings Preparatory to Their Anticipated Flight.

STRANGE IDEAS OF THE WILLETTSES

Despite the Fact That Their Prophet Was Disposed of by White Caps, They Have Unbounded Faith in His Teachings.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 1.—Thousands of negroes throughout the South are settling up their worldly affairs preparatory to leaving the earth on the 5th of March next. On that day they firmly believe the world is to end. Gabriel is to blow his trumpet at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Jerusalem at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Jerusalem at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Jerusalem at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

When the blast echoes throughout the land all good negroes, so they are told, will rise into the air, and by some celestial force be carried over land and sea to Jerusalem, where there is to be a grand "round up" of the faithful ere the journey to the skies is resumed. So thoroughly have these ideas taken possession of many of the negroes that they have already disposed of their worldly belongings. They have thrown up their jobs and are simply waiting for the trumpet blast.

Many of the prospective angels have strange ideas as to the geographical location of the Holy City. Some of them think it is near Macon, about 100 miles north of New York, and still others, that it is just the other side of the clouds.

Several people are responsible for the spreading of these strange ideas. Their chief propagator was Dr. John S. Willetts, a faith cure prophet, who made his home in Midway, Washington County, Pa. He became too active to suit the people of that

particular neighborhood, so the White Caps killed him. But several worthy successors were found, among them his wife and "Dr." Anderson Rodgers. The latter is at present holding services in this city and preparing the negroes for their flight next month.

Rodgers holds his meetings in an old church at No. 101 Richmond street. Great throngs of colored people attend them. The services are opened by the singing of a song beginning:

Jesus is coming and
The end of the world is near.

Then the preacher tells about the ending of the world and urges all those who care to join the heavenly procession to step to the altar. Later the elect are taken to a pool of muddy water, in Hill street, and immersed, amid the halloos of the negroes and the derisive shouts of the white unbelievers.

"Dr." Rodgers has voluminous evidence to bolster up his faith.

The creed has its foundation in the fifth chapter of Genesis and the thirteenth verse, where Joseph says:

I am in the place of God. Ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good.

The verse from the gospel of St. John which says: "If a man shall keep my saying he shall not see death," is another pillar. March 5 is fixed as the time of the second coming of Christ, by counting 1896 as 1900, the new creed holding that an error of more than four years was made when the system of reckoning as now used was introduced. The command in Mark 16: 15: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" will have been carried out by March 5.

The end is based on the ninth chapter of Daniel and the twenty-seventh verse, which says:

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week, and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the oversteering of abomination, he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, which determined, shall be poured upon the desolate.

Rodgers figures it out that the

will stand in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem from Saturday, August 14, 1897, to Monday, February 25, 1901, or 1,290 days. This idea comes from the Scriptures where Daniel is informed of the times, 1230 and 11:

None of the wicked shall understand but the wise shall understand, and from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be one thousand, two hundred and ninety days.

"Dr." Rodgers explains the very long week in this language:

"Read Daniel, 9th chapter, 27th verse, and you will find that this covenant was made for one week. This is not a week of literal days, but a week with a prophet is seven years."

According to Rodgers's creed the Saviour is to reign on earth 1,000 years. He says there are at this time 144,000 wise virgins who shall not taste death, but who shall meet the Saviour in the clouds high up over the world next March. The preacher is careful to explain that he uses the word "virgin" in a broad sense. He includes in the figures named sanctified people—"boys, men, women, black and white."

"Ye must keep ye lamps full of oil," is his injunction. Then he explains that this is a Biblical expression meaning to keep the soul full of holy thoughts. He warns the ignorant negroes not to misunderstand him and invest in kerosene.

Rodgers expresses the hope that the eventful morning will be free from haze, so that those who are doomed to remain on this sinful sphere can have the pleasure of seeing their brothers and sisters depart for the golden gates.

Rodgers is baptizing on an average of thirty converts to the new belief daily. To each new convert he gives a passport officially signed.

The Willettses are not spending money for robes as did the Millerites, who expected the judgment day several years ago. The latter congregated on a large hill and awaited in vain for the coming of the Lord. The followers of the new creed will remain right in their homes until the summons they expect arrives.

REJOICING IN PRISONS.

Black Convicts Hail the Approach of the Willetts Judgment Day.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 1.—There is rejoicing among the negroes confined in the State prison at this place. Nearly all

of them have been converted to the Willetts creed, and they believe they will go sailing upward March 5 next whether they wear balls and chains or not. Negroes in other parts of the State are as enthusiastic over the approaching end. Thousands employed in the mines about Round Mountain have been converted by a preacher named Lowry. Circulars that start off with the announcement in bold type that "Jesus is coming" are scattered all over the State. Many of the converts have sold their belongings for what they could get for them, and in some instances they have given their things away.

Prominent among the few white believers is a man named Snow, a resident of Selma. Snow has considerable property, a part of which he has converted into cash to carry on the missionary work. He announces that he will spend every cent he has before March 5, as money will be useless after that date.

The Prophet's Widow Has Faith in Her Husband's Prediction.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 1.—Mrs. Martha Willetts, the widow of the prophet, when seen at her home in East St. Louis, said she was firm in the belief that the end of the world would come, as predicted by her husband before he was shot down by White Caps in Pennsylvania.

"My husband was the true prophet," she said, "and he was taken from among the people as the Bible says he would be."

She was endeavoring, she continued, to have as many souls ready for the end as possible. She is constantly distributing books, tracts, pamphlets and charts prepared by the late prophet. She holds that everything has been as her husband said it would be. She declares that all of the predictions he made have been fulfilled, and there isn't a doubt in her mind but that the end is only a little more than a month off.

The largest number of converts, she said, were among the negroes of the South, though many whites in the West had recently professed a desire to be saved before the eventful day had arrived.

Mrs. Willetts says that she recently had a message from her departed husband in which he announced he was making arrangements for the reception of the faithful and that he would be on hand early on the morning of March 5 to greet the saved.

Cure for Erysipelas.

A Serum Used with Great Success in a Parisian Hospital.

Discovery of French Physicians That Revolutionizes the Treatment of the Disease.

Surprising Decrease in the Death Rate Due to Careful Inoculation.

TO COMBAT THE CANCER MICROBE.

Belief That the New Remedy for Erysipelas Will Be of Great Use in Fighting Other Diseases—Some Interesting Tests.

A cure has at last been found for erysipelas, a disease that in its worst forms has hitherto triumphed over the ingenuity of doctors. The remedy has been found in careful inoculation of the patients along the same lines that have proved so successful in diphtheria. The microbe of erysipelas, long since discovered, is now made impotent by a serum built up through horses and guinea pigs.

A report just issued by the chief of the Parisian Hospital of Contagious Diseases, gives full details of the results attained within the past year by the application of the treatment devised by Dr. Marmorek, and applied by Dr. Chantemesse of the hospital. According to the figures, which are official, the mortality rate has been cut in half.

The microbes of erysipelas, known sci-

tifically as the streptococcus, is really the cause of far more than erysipelas alone. This single tiny organism producing also many of the inflammations in the tissues directly underneath the skin, is the cause of febrile and the dangerous element of that dread malady known as puerperal fever.

The results as computed in the wards of the Hospital of Contagious Diseases, in Paris, are valuable and conclusive because the new remedy was tried side by side along with the old methods. Careful preparation has been made before this, and animals have been experimented with with such an encouraging result that it was thought perfectly safe to try the remedy on human beings.

In this hospital for the year ending December 25, 1895, there were 1,055 erysipelas patients, of which 34 died, or a mortality rate of 3.22 per cent. From December 26, 1894, to the end of February, 1895, 145 patients were treated with the ordinary, old-fashioned remedies, 5 of these dying—a mortality rate of 3.45 per cent.

From July 1, 1895, to November 18 of that year, 469 patients were given the time-honored treatment of cold baths day and night. Two thousand six hundred baths were administered, and there was a total of 16 deaths, the mortality rate on this being 3.91 per cent, slightly lower than the other, but not remarkably so. Averaging up the mortality rate, it stood at 3.79 for 534 patients. This was a trifle over one-half of all the cases. To administer to the others Dr. Marmorek prepared three grades of erysipelas serum, to which he gave the name of "antistreptococcus," of varying strengths, all prepared under his direction at the Pasteur Institute.

The first preparation, administered during March, April and May, gave surprisingly good results. Out of 297 cases there were only 5 deaths, or a mortality rate of 1.70 per cent. The second grade of serum, administered during June, and of much less strength, proved a failure. Seven deaths were registered out of 107 cases, the mortality rate of 6.54 per cent. This did not discourage Marmorek and Chantemesse, however. From November 18 to December 25 they tried a still stronger serum and had the satisfaction of meeting with but

1 death in 97 cases, a mortality rate of but 1.03 per cent. The whole number of deaths and cases with the new remedy of inoculation was 13 out of a total of 501, against 21 deaths out of a total of 534 under the old treatment, a percentage of 2.99 per cent, against a percentage of 3.79 per cent. New York stands on about the same footing as Paris in regard to deaths from erysipelas. The figures being somewhat as follows: Population of New York, about 1,000,000; deaths from erysipelas—1885, 120; 1894, 120; 1895, 145; 1892-189, Paris's population is, roughly speaking, about 2,500,000. In 1891 her deaths from erysipelas were 123; in 1893, 201.

Averaging New York's death rate on this disease it would seem to be a trifle higher. It should be remembered that only a proportion of the cases of erysipelas come in the Paris hospitals of contagious diseases. In New York no cultivation of the erysipelas microbe has ever been attempted for the purpose of curing erysipelas. At the New York Cancer Hospital, at One Hundred and Fourth street and Central Park West, experiments have been made during the past year of inoculating the erysipelas microbe into persons afflicted with cancer, with a view of introducing an antagonistic element to the cancer microbe. To put it popularly and outside of scientific and medical terms and figures, the attempt has been to introduce, as it were, "war" between these two bacilli, in order to determine if the erysipelas bacillus, as was supposed, would not exterminate that of cancer. No definite results, it is understood, have yet been obtained, for cancer is a slow disease and an insidious one, and it is too early to say as yet whether cures have really been effected. But this much is certain, at least, that the results so far have been measurably encouraging and much is hoped for.

In the Parisian report relating the success of the serum treatment on erysipelas patients a number of other details are given outside of the figures. In every case on record that was treated the sores at once commenced to heal, often within a few hours, seldom outside of twenty-four. A few very serious cases were brought in. Each person to whom these inoculations were applied became better quickly, save in the few cases that were lost, and not only did their general health seem to improve, but the accompaniment of erysipelas, began to cease and the scars commenced to peel off rapidly.

The dose administered varied according to the condition of the patient, from 20 to 40 cubic centimetres, a centimetre being 27 of a fluid dram, 20 centimetres being thus nearly 5½ fluid drams, and 40 a trifle short of 11.

An interesting sidelight on this discovery is the claim of a French physician that he has discovered a cure for leprosy, which consists in treating the sufferer with the erysipelas microbe.